

# State of Michigan

## Pesticide Advisory Committee



## Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report

Pesticide Advisory Committee, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
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## MEETINGS

The Pesticide Advisory Committee meets quarterly with occasional supplementary meetings called by the Director to address special concerns in a timely manner. The meetings were held in November, and January, April, and July 2000.

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## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations made to the Director by the Committee from November 1999 through July 2000:

- ◆ The PAC recommended a thorough review of the conditions by which an Incidental Exemption is granted. Under Regulation 636 the director may authorize the incidental use of general-use pesticides by noncertified or nonregistered applicators if the person is not regularly engaged to apply pesticides for hire, the pesticide is not the primary work assignment, and the pesticide application is an integral part of another operation. The review will determine if a new policy from the committee is necessary concerning possible outdated exemptions. Some items to be reviewed were: time limitations, penalties for product utilization other than the exempted product, supervision of applicator, and MDA's oversight. A committee was established upon the committee's request to investigate the issues and report back to the committee with the findings and recommendations in the next fiscal year.

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## COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Committee discussions have dealt with a variety of subjects, most of which were put forward by members or presented by MDA personnel to acquaint the PAC with current concerns or new programs. Agenda items have included:

- ◆ Professional Aerial Applicator Support System (PAASS): This program was developed to assist pilots with drift management, stress management, and fatigue issues. The PAC members had the opportunity to review the program and examine how aerial applicators assess and managed their particular risks. The committee also reviewed and commented on a brochure published by the department to educate the public on aerial application and who to contact if exposure to pesticide drift occurs. The brochure is entitled, "For Your Information – Pesticide Spray Drift."
- ◆ Gypsy Moth Control Program: The committee discussed concerns for the safety of the aerial application of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) for Gypsy Moth control. Several outside experts were invited to address the committee. MSU Extension provided information to the committee and distributed their Extension Bulletin E-2724, Bt: One Option for Gypsy Moth Management. Also distributed among the committee members was a memorandum from an epidemiologist at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) who assessed the health risks resulting from the use of Bt for gypsy moth management. The MDCH

epidemiologist concluded that, “there is no evidence that the risk here is sufficient to justify cessation of spraying.” After reviewing the information provided, the PAC agreed to issue the statement that, “there is no significant human health risk with the use of Bt to control Gypsy Moth.”

- ◆ Urban Outreach Initiatives: The committee retained its interest in community outreach initiatives. Some of these urban initiatives include: Cass Tech implementing IPM and community outreach programs, Rat Coalition establishing an educational program about rat control through a \$64,000 grant from Wayne county, and Parents Together - an Ypsilanti based parent group concerning pesticide education in targeted communities. MDA also received money from the EPA to implement a pilot IPM program within an urban health care facility. MDA continues to provide IPM training programs focusing on pesticide applicators in schools, health care facilities, and public buildings.
- ◆ Other issues brought before the PAC committee were as follows:
  - MSU Pesticide Applicator Training Updates
  - Environmental Stewardships Groundwater Programs
  - Regulation 641 –Commercial Fertilizer and Bulk Storage
  - Urban Initiatives - Community Pesticide Education Program
  - Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Enforcement Reports
  - Revision of Pesticide Applicator Certification System
  - Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Progress Report
  - Genetically Modified Organisms
  - Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Personnel Updates
  - Pesticide and Plant Pest Management’s Strategic Planning
  - FQPA Risk Assessments
  - Fireblight epidemic in Southwest Michigan
  - Organic Food Legislation and Certification Standards
  - EPA Disclosure of Inert materials in Pesticide Products
  - Changes in Regulation 636 – Pesticide Applicators
  - Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Progress Report
  - Regulation 641 – Commercial Fertilizer and Bulk Storage

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## ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER ACT 451, PART 83, Pesticide Control

In FY 2000, MDA conducted 233 Pesticide Use Investigations (UIs). Of these investigations, 58 of these occurred in agricultural and 175 occurred in non-agricultural situations. Of the agricultural UIs, 34 involved commercial applicator firms, and 24 involved private applicators producing agricultural commodities. Of the 175 Non-ag UIs, 7 involved homeowners and 167 involved commercial applicators. MDA closed 143 (61%) of the total FY 2000 UIs in the fiscal year with the remaining 90 (39%) pending either sample analysis, and/or finalization of enforcement actions. Below is a table summarizing the enforcement actions to date for pesticide use violations during FY 2000.

Enforcement Action	Number of Actions
Warning Letters	54
Disposition Letters	52
Notices of Intent	21
Advisory Letters	13
Prosecutions	1
Informal Hearings	1
None Required	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>143</b>